



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

435 RYMAN MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297

April 16, 2009

Montana Senate Taxation Committee  
Senator Jeff Essman, Chairman  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Sent via email and FAX to (406) 444-4875

Dear Senator Essman and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing to express my support for the confirmation of Montana Department of Revenue Director Dan Bucks. In my experience, Director Bucks has been responsive to local government, thoughtful about policy issues and fair to all parties with whom he deals.

An example: Last year, as the City of Missoula and other Montana cities struggled with dramatic shifts in our taxable values, Director Bucks worked closely with my city and others, as well as the League of Cities & Towns, to help us understand changes in the economy and accounting that produced these shifts. Further, he and his staff worked to mitigate those shifts as we wrestled with carefully balanced municipal budgets.

That said, Bucks is no pushover. He delivers bad news with appropriate candor and has wrangled with my colleagues and bond counsel over tax-increment issues. He's also very good at chasing down taxes that are owed to the people of Montana. But, as I mentioned, he's always fair and responsive, which I suspect are two of the key qualities you'd want in a state revenue director.

I hope you'll vote to confirm Dan Bucks as Montana's director of the Department of Revenue. He's earned my support and trust. I'd respectfully suggest that he's earned yours, too.

Sincerely,

John Engen  
Mayor

cc: Dan Bucks  
The Honorable Brian Schweitzer  
Alec Hansen